

NEBRASKA

WEATHER & CROPS



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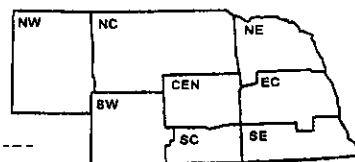
For Week Ending April 19, 1998

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National Agricultural Statistics Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
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WEATHER

Temperatures in the Panhandle averaged four degrees below normals while the remainder of the State averaged near normals for the week. Precipitation was widespread across the State with amounts averaging from around a tenth of an inch to near an inch and three-fourths.

GENERAL

Wet, cool weather conditions once again delayed spring fieldwork activities last week, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. The extended wet conditions have delayed spring tillage activities by one to two weeks in parts of eastern Nebraska. Moisture supplies have been limited in southwestern counties where rain is needed to improve topsoil moisture supplies and encourage plant growth. Producer activities consisted of limited oat seeding, spring tillage, fertilizer application, equipment preparation, grain marketing, tax and Ag Census record keeping, and livestock care. Producers were anxiously awaiting warmer, drier weather conditions.

CROPS

Winter wheat condition showed little change from last week and rated 1% very poor, 5% poor, 21% fair,

CROPS (cont.)

60% good and 13% excellent. By Sunday, 4% of the crop had jointed, compared with 1% last year and equal to the five-year average. Reports of army cutworms continued to be noted in the Panhandle, southwestern and central counties.

Corn planting started last week with 1% complete as of Sunday. This compared to 0% last year and 2% for the five-year average. Planting activities were the most advanced in the southern parts of the State.

Oat seeding progressed to 38% planted last week, about eight days behind average. This compares with 52% planted last year and 50% average. Seeding was most advanced in southwestern counties, with 91% sown as of Sunday. To date, 12% of the crop had emerged, equal to last year.

Alfalfa producers were seeing army cutworm damage in many portions of the State.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE & RANGE

Pasture and range condition rated 3% poor, 23% fair, 65% good, and 9% excellent. Calving activities were 88% complete. Calf losses rated mostly average statewide. However, reports in eastern counties indicated calf losses were above normal due to the cold, wet conditions. Where possible, producers moved cattle to drier areas. Mud in feedlots slowed weight gains.

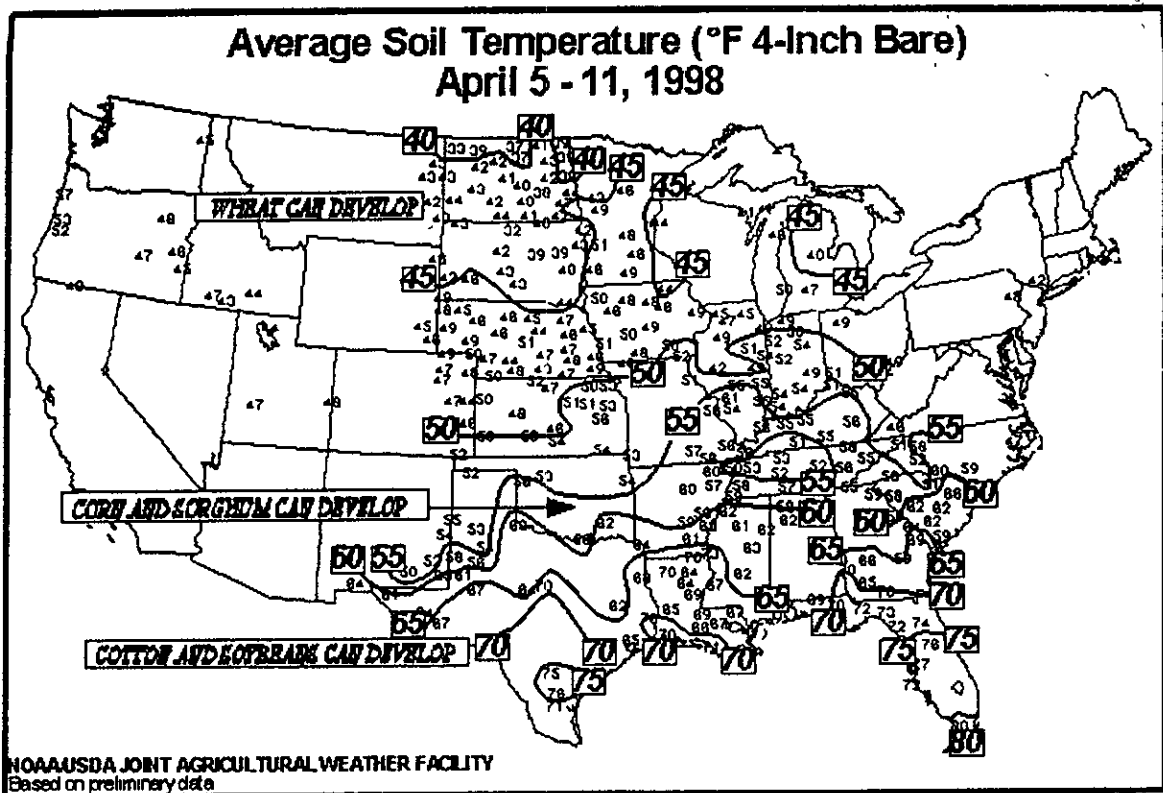
PROGRESS AS OF APRIL 19, 1998	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	PERCENT											
% Wheat Jointed	0	2	2	6	7	4	6	16	4	n/a	1	4
% Corn Planted	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	n/a	0	2
% Oats Sown	65	30	21	55	28	91	48	42	38	20	52	50
% Oats Emerged	33	10	0	18	4	44	5	20	12	8	12	n/a
% Cows Calved	92	87	80	82	87	93	88	89	88	82	90	n/a
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF APRIL 17, 1998												
Days Suitable	2.6	3.8	1.4	2.2	1.8	5.7	3.2	2.0	2.9	2.5	2.3	
Topsoil Moisture - Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	
- Short	6	4	0	0	0	46	0	0	6	7	4	
- Adequate	94	75	78	54	54	51	70	73	72	53	87	
- Surplus	0	21	22	46	46	0	30	27	22	39	9	
Subsoil Moisture - Very Short	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
- Short	5	6	1	2	1	38	3	0	6	8	9	
- Adequate	95	94	94	61	74	61	82	62	82	74	87	
- Surplus	0	0	5	37	25	0	15	38	12	18	4	

n/a = not available.

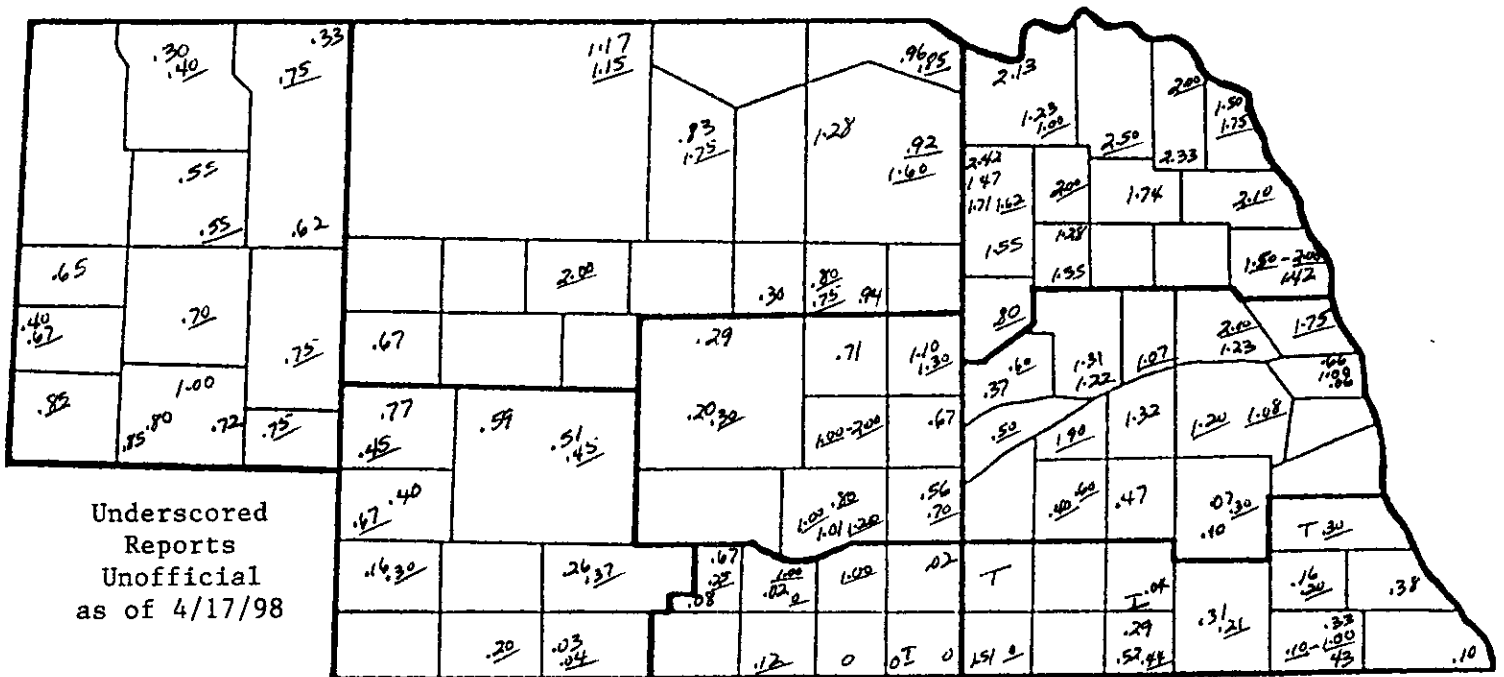
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PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1998



PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - APRIL 18, 1998

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week62	.90	1.67	.67	.65	.39	.13	.37
Total since April 176	1.27	3.34	2.27	3.44	.44	2.34	1.65
Normal since April 1	1.05	1.26	1.44	1.43	1.62	1.08	1.23	1.62
Total as % of normal	72%	101%	232%	159%	212%	41%	190%	102%

**TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR
WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1998**

WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1998						
Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	64	21	44	---	.30
	Scottsbluff	69	23	42	-4	.65
	Sidney	71	20	43	---	.80
NC	Valentine	76	26	46	0	1.17
NE	Norfolk	79	28	50	0	1.28
	Sioux City	77	27	51	+1	1.50
CEN	Grand Island	81	27	50	-1	.56
	Ord	80	22	49	---	.71
EC	Lincoln	77	25	52	0	.07
	Omaha	73	32	53	+2	1.00
SW	Imperial	79	25	48	---	.16
	North Platte	74	19	46	-2	.51